

Application No. 10/517,068
Amendment dated February 2, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2006

Docket No.: 4772-0109PUS1

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to the figures. The photographs have been reduced to line drawings.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 43-99 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 43-96 as being allowable if re-written to overcome the objections and claims 97 and 98 as being allowable. As requested by the Examiner, the various objections have now been corrected so that claims 43-98 are now in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The Examiner required that new drawings be submitted since the original drawings contain photographs. By way of the present Amendment, Applicant has provided replacement sheets for all of the drawings as required by the rules. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the abstract as not being on separate sheet. By way of the present Amendment, Applicant are submitting a new abstract. At the same, Applicant has revised the language of the Abstract to avoid any claim language.

The Examiner required a substitute specification to remove the underlined text on pages 1-3. By way of the present Amendment, Applicant is submitting a substitute specification in the form of a clean copy. Applicant is also submitting copies of the original papers to meet the requirement for a specification submitted with markings. Applicant submit that no new matter is being submitted by way of this substitute specification.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 43, 49, 54, 57-59 and 76-78. By way of the present Amendment, Applicant has corrected the language which led to these objections. In regard to claim 43, Applicant has removed the initial capital letter in fastening. In claim 49, Applicant has replaced "electrically" with "electrical". In claim 54, Applicant has inserted "and". In claims 57-59 and 76-78, the final comma was changed to periods. Accordingly, this objection is overcome.

Rejection under 35 USC 112

Claim 99 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner points out that the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method of use. By way of the present Amendment, Applicant has now pointed out the flanges for mounting the hub to a main shaft and also have better specified the construction of the mounting flange. Much of this language comes from existing claims, such as claim 43. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 99 now meets the requirements of 35 USC 112.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claim 99 stands rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated German Patent Publication DE 10022128. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner points out that the German publication teaches the use of a mounting flange on a wind turbine for conducting an electrical current produced by lightning along electrical conductors extending from the blades of the wind turbine. By way of the present Amendment, Applicant has added other limitations to claim 99 which define over this reference. In particular, claim 99 describes in greater detail the arrangement of the mounting flange. Since the reference is in the German language, it is not clear that any of these limitations are found in the reference. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 99 is allowable over this reference.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the various objections and rejections of the claims have now been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. In view of this reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse Reg. No. 27,295 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 2, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Joe McKinney Muncy

Registration No.: 32,334

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

Attachments